

BOROUGH OF CHIPPENHAM

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Sanitary Inspector

for the YEAR ended

31st DECEMBER, 1948

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

(a) Medical Officer of Health.

C. L. BROOMHEAD, M.D., D.P.H.

(b) Sanitary Inspector.

S. F. FRENCH, Sanitary Inspector's Certificate,
R.S.I.

Meat and other Foods Inspector's
Certificate, R.S.I.

REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31st DECEMBER, 1948

*To the Mayor, Alderman and Members
of the Chippenham Town Council.*

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1948.

This report is based on Ministry of Health Circular 3/49 dated 17th January, 1949.

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking Mr. S. F. French for his help and co-operation during the year under review.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C. L. BROOMHEAD, M.D.,
Medical Officer of Health.

Vital Statistics for 1948.

Area (in acres) ...	...	...	...	1,197
Population (1948) ...	...	...	...	12,390
No. of inhabited houses (end of 1948 according to Rate Book) ...	...	...	...	3,548
Rateable Value ...	...	...	...	£77,027 0s. 0d.
Sum represented by Penny Rate ...	...	...	...	£306 9s. 1d.

	Male	Female	Total	Rate per 1000	Rate per 1000 E. & W.
Live Births					
Legitimate	100	94	194		
Illegitimate	11	5	16		
Total	111	99	210		
Birth Rate				18.56	17.9
Still Births	6	4	10	.80	.42
Deaths	72	72	144		
Death Rate				11.6	10.8
Deaths from Puerperal Causes					
Puerperal Sepsis ...	-	-	-		
Other Maternal Causes	-	-	-		
Deaths of Infants under one year :					
All infants per 1000 live Births	9	4	13	61.9	
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live Births	6	4	10		
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live Births	3	-	3		
Deaths from :—					
Cancer (all ages) ...	9	15	24		
Measles (all ages) ...	-	-	-		
Whooping Cough (all ages)	-	-	-		
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	-	-	-		
Influenza	-	-	-		
Respiratory Diseases (21, 22, 23)	9	4	13		
Diseases of heart and Blood Vessels, (18, 19, 20)	32	34	66		

There has been little change in the Birth Rate as compared with the year 1947, but there is a slight reduction in the Death Rate, that is 11.6 as compared with 12.14 in 1947. The Death Rate of all infants under 1 year per 1,000 live births of 61.9 appears to be considerably higher than the rate for 1947, when it was 33.19.

Deaths from all Causes.

CAUSE	Male	Female	Total
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	0	0	0
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever ...	0	0	0
Whooping Cough ...	0	0	0
Diphtheria ...	0	0	0
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	3	2	5
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	0	0	0
Syphilitic Diseases ...	0	0	0
Influenza ...	0	0	0
Measles ...	0	0	0
Acute Polio-Myel and Polio-Enceph ...	0	0	0
Acute Inf. enceph ...	0	0	0
Cancer of Buc. Cav. and oesoph (M)			
Uterus (F) ...	1	2	3
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	2	7	9
Cancer of Breast ...	0	0	0
Cancer of all other Sites ...	6	6	12
Diabetes ...	0	2	2
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions ...	5	11	16
Heart Diseases ...	27	18	45
Other Diseases of Circulatory System ...	0	5	5
Bronchitis ...	6	1	7
Pneumonia ...	3	0	3
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	0	3	3
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ...	2	0	2
Diarrhoea under 2 years ...	0	0	0
Appendicitis ...	0	0	0
Other digestive Diseases ...	1	1	2
Nephritis ...	1	1	2
Puerperal and Post-Abortive Sepsis ...	0	0	0
Other Maternal causes ...	0	0	0
Premature Birth ...	6	3	9
Con. Mal. Birth Inj. Infant Diseases ...	1	1	2
Suicide ...	1	0	1
Road Traffic Accidents ...	0	0	0
Other Violent Causes ...	3	0	3
All Other Causes ...	4	9	13

Total	72	72	144
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Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality

AGE PERIODS	New Cases				Deaths			
	Non Respiratory				Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1								
5		1		1				
15	1	1				1		
25	2	2			1	1		
35	2	2						
45	1							
55					2			
65 and upwards					1			
Totals	6	6		1	4	2	—	—

Thirteen cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year as compared with seven notifications received during 1947. There were six deaths due to Tuberculosis during the year as compared with seven during 1947.

Although the above figures are too small to permit of a conclusion, it should be noted that the incidence of respiratory cases appears in the younger age groups as well as those of adult and middle age.

Prevalence of Infectious Diseases.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) occurring
in the Borough during 1948.

<i>DISEASE</i>				<i>Total Cases Notified</i>	<i>Cases admitted to Hospital</i>
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	40	38
Diphtheria	...	...	...	2	2
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	36	—
Measles	...	...	...	210	—
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	3	3
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	8	6
Dysentery	...	...	...	1	1
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	...	...	...	—	—
Erysipelas	...	...	...	8	8
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	2	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	—	—

Of the three cases of Poliomyelitis notified, two were confirmed. The two cases of Diphtheria notified were not confirmed. The number of cases of Scarlet Fever admitted to hospital shows an increase over the number admitted during 1947 of 30. There was an increase in the notification of Measles received.

SCABIES.

Five persons only from three houses were treated at St. Andrews Hospital. The incidence of scabies now appears negligible.

Water Supplies

The following particulars with regard to water supplies, sewage disposal, and refuse collection have been obtained from the Borough Engineer.

Present Position.

The Council's water undertaking has produced an average of 1,398,000 gallons per day throughout the year. This output is again reported by the Borough Engineer to be well within the possible yield of the Council's borehole sources at Westmead and Ivyfields.

The quantity and quality has been satisfactory. Precautionary chlorination of .2 parts per million continues to be carried out at the Council's Pumping Stations.

The water is not liable to plumbo-solvent action.

The construction work of laying the trunk main for the Bradford and Melksham Rural District Council's water supply has reached an advanced stage and the Town Council have commenced supplying water to this system. The Trowbridge and Melksham Water Board are preparing their scheme for taking water for their area and it is understood that this will be put in hand at an early date.

Future Schemes.

The Borough Engineer has reported to the Town Council upon the necessity of augmented water supply for the North East portion of the Borough, and the Council have called for a scheme for the laying of the trunk main from the Reservoir at Hardenhuish to the Town Bridge via the area requiring the supply. This area includes areas of land to be developed for Housing Schemes, the main industrial part of the town, and land to be developed for Cattle Markets and for a Swimming Pool.

Copy.

The Counties Public Health Laboratories.

66, Victoria Street,
London, S.W.1.

Ref. C/MN/61.

Report on the Bacteriological Examination of a Sample of Water.

Received 6. 12. 48, from BOROUGH OF CHIPPENHAM.

Labelled 13, Audley Road. House tap direct from High Level Main.

Date 6. 12. 48. 11-30 a.m.

Taken by A. Ferne.

Witness, M. Burgess.

Signed,

Number of Colonies developing
on Agar per cc. or ml. in

1 day at 37°C. 2 days at 37°C.
3 days at 20°C.

0 0 0

Presumptive Coliform Reaction — Absent from 100 ml.
 Bact. coli. — Absent from 100 ml.
 Cl. welchii Reaction — Absent from 100 ml.

This is a very satisfactory sample. It is clear and bright in appearance and of the highest standard of bacterial purity consistent with a wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

GORDON MILES.

13th December, 1948

for the Counties Public Laboratories.

The Counties Public Health Laboratories.

66, Victoria Street,
 London, S.W. 1.

Ref. D/WW/89.

Analysis of a sample of Water received on 5.1.49, from Borough of Chippenham.

Labelled Hardenhuish Camp, Stand Pipe, High Level Mains.

Taken by A. W. Ferris. Witness, Mrs P. Slade. Date 4.1.49. 9 a.m.

Chemical Results expressed in parts per million.

Appearance	...	...	...	...	...	Clear and Bright			
Turbidity (Silica Scale)	...	...	...	...	...	Nil			
Colour (Hazen)	...	...	...	...	...	Nil			
Odour	...	...	...	...	...	Nil			
Taste	...	...	...	...	...	Normal			
Reaction, pH	...	...	...	...	...	7.2			
Free Carbon Dioxide	...	...	...	...	...	23			
Electric conductivity at 20°C.	...	...	...	...	...	590			
Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	...	...	...	...	...	255			
Ca.	Mg.	Na.	CO ₃	SO ₄	Cl.	NO ₃	SiO ₂	Probable Combination s	
116	9.1	10	153	60	23	A	9		
102			153					Calcium Carbonate	255
14				34				Calcium Sulphate	48
	6.6			26				Magnesium Sulphate	33
	2.5				7			Magnesium Chloride	10
		10			16			Sodium Chloride	26
						9		Silica	9
								Difference	23
Total solid constituents dried at 180°C.									404
Hardness—Total	330			Carbonate (Temporary)			255		
Nitrogen in Nitrates	0.0			Non-carb. (Permanent)			75		
Free Ammonia	0.016			Nitrogen in Nitrites			Absent		
(as N)	0.013			Residual Chlorine			Absent		
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.008			Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours					
(as N)	0.007			at 27°C.			0.10		
Metals	Absent			Fluorine			0.8		

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

Refuse collection is being carried out by a Lewin Compressing Refuse Collecting Machine which enables the collection of refuse to be carried out satisfactorily.

Inspections are being made of the refuse bins used by householders. The Town Council have made available to the public supplies of dustbins at a reasonable cost. Reasonable co-operation of householders is being obtained to replace unsuitable dustbins with hygienic ones as requested by the Council.

Disposal of Refuse.

Refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping at the Cuttings Bath Road, where a reclamation of land is being carried out. The compressed refuse now being handled has improved conditions on the site. Nuisances continue to be controlled by covering the refuse with soil, the use of tip dressings and frequent eradication of rodents.

Sewage Disposal

The extensions of the Westmead Sewage Disposal Works were nearing completion at the end of 1948, and the Borough Engineer estimates that the works will be in full operation by the summer of 1949. (The Works did, in fact, begin operation on March 8th, 1949).

An extension of the sludge drying areas has been made at Patterdown Disposal Works during the year which has improved the working conditions in this plant. The Borough Engineer has still to present a report with recommendations for the improvement of these Works.

Sewers.

During the year extensions of sewers have been carried out to serve the areas being developed for Housing. These are largely outside the Borough and are being laid as "separate" systems.

A length of approximately 80 yards of 9 inch diameter sewer has been relaid at the North of London Road.

A new length of about 100 yards of sewer is being laid from Sheldon Road to Lowden Hill to replace a defective and ancient stone culvert.

Extensive sewer cleaning works were undertaken by the Borough Engineer's Department on the High Level sewer from the Westmead Sewage Disposal Works to New Road.

The Borough Engineer has reported to the Council that for the first time records of flows of sewage are being recorded at the Westmead Sewage Disposal Works and that these indicate suspected infiltration of ground water into the sewers. An examination of a short length of the main outfall sewer of the "High Level" area of the Borough has shown serious deterioration of the 21 inch diameter concrete tubes of which a considerable length of this sewer is constructed. A detailed examination of the sewerage system will be required before remedial works can be considered.

A Public Cleansing improvement worthy of note is the mechanical emptying of gullies undertaken in the Borough for the first time in 1948. A marked improvement has been observed as a result of this service.

Mass Radiography

During the year arrangements were made once more for the Mass Radiography unit to visit the Borough. During the visit of the Unit from the 10th to the 14th January, 1949, 470 examinations were carried out. Of this number (1.06%) were found to be suffering from active tubercular conditions. On the previous visit of the Unit approximately 1,300 attended for examination, and .505% revealed traces of tuberculosis.

It is somewhat alarming to notice that Pulmonary Tuberculosis is now appearing in age groups 5 to 15 and 45, and also that the total number of cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year shows some increase.

Medical Officers of Health are naturally worried about the inadequacy of beds for Pulmonary Tuberculosis. This factor, coupled with overcrowding and shortage of housing, no doubt is contributing to this change. Pulmonary Tuberculosis is, above all, a community disease and it is essential that the early case in its curable stage, and the old infectious and incurable case which is very often in intimate contact with children, should have hospital treatment.

National Assistance Act, Section 47

This Section of the National Assistance Act 1948, has the effect of securing the necessary care and attention for persons who are suffering from grave chronic disease, being aged, infirm, physically incapacitated, or living in insanitary conditions and are unable to devote to themselves proper care and attention. The average expectation of life in this country is still rising, and one result of the National Health Act has been to uncover the need for hospital treatment of elderly persons. The National Assistance Act gives a Local Authority permission to apply for a Magistrate's Order to remove an elderly person such as quoted above, to a suitable hospital or other place for his or her detention and maintenance.

Although this is a very useful section of the National Assistance Act, its provisions cannot of course be implemented quickly. An elderly person requiring hospital treatment must be admitted in the usual way, that is through arrangements made by the General Practitioner attending the case. During 1948, it was only necessary to report one case ; an elderly person requiring hospital treatment, to the Council. Before a Magistrate's Order had been received however, she agreed to enter an Institution voluntarily.

The problem of old age and the care and maintenance of the elderly will become more pressing in the future, and although it is essential that young married families should have housing accommodation at the earliest possible moment, it should not be lost sight of that more accommodation will probably be required for the elderly in the future.

Preparation, Handling and Distribution of Food.

During the year meetings were held of a combined committee of members of Chippenham Town Council, and the Chippenham Chamber of Commerce. As a result, it was decided that the Borough Council should give every assistance to food traders desirous of bringing their premises up to the requisite standard required by the Food & Drugs Act, 1938. It was also agreed that an appeal to employees should be printed and displayed in all premises dealing with the preparation, handling and distribution of food in the Borough. The appeal to employees was as follows :—

1. " A high standard of personal cleanliness is necessary at all all times particularly in regard to :—
 - (a) Hands and fingernails should be scrubbed before commencing work and after every visit to a sanitary convenience and as often as necessary.
 - (b) Overalls must be changed frequently to maintain a clean appearance.
 - (c) Smoking during the handling, preparation and distribution of foodstuff is prohibited.
2. Premises, fixtures, fittings etc. for which the individual employee is responsible must be kept clean at all times.
3. Employees must undertake to do everything possible to support the efforts of employers in preparing, handling and distributing food in a thoroughly clean and hygienic manner.
4. Employees must immediately notify their employer if suffering from or in contact with a contagious or infectious disease, or if they are suffering from any septic condition of the hands or skin.
5. Employers and employees must see that no unauthorised person enters the room or rooms where food is being prepared or cooked.

It is difficult under certain circumstances to make the necessary building alterations to meet the requirements of the Food & Drugs Act owing to either lack of space, or shortages of the necessary materials and labour. It is probable that there will not be a very great improvement in food handling and distribution until these difficulties can be overcome and until commercial catering generally

sets a much higher standard. Education of the public of course and an increased demand for cleanliness and hygiene will also contribute to the necessary improvements.

The technical problems of food manufacture and distribution, especially those affecting nutritional value and safety require increasing investigation and study.

School Children.

Full details of the School Health Service are given in the County School Medical Officer's Report, but the following are of local interest.

In addition to the usual re-inspection, 741 children in the Routine Age-Groups were examined during the year under review. Of these 262 (35.3%) were found to be of good nutrition, 410 (55.3%) were found to be of normal or fair nutrition, whilst 69 (9.3%) were found to be of poor nutrition.

Closure of Schools During 1948.

Nil.

Milk in Schools Scheme.

Average attendance October, 1948	...	2250	
No. of one third pts. supplied on a day in October, 1948, on the basis of one third pt. per child	...	1994	88.6%
Pasteurised milk supplied to	...	1994	

School Meals Service

Number of children receiving mid-day meals at School October, 1948 :				
Full or part payment	...	...	916	
Free	...	...	104	

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The following number of children have completed a full course of immunisation during 1948.

Ages 1—4	236	Ages 5—14	12
TOTAL 248.			

It is estimated that the following percentage of children are immunised against Diphtheria :—

Ages 1—4	(66.1%)	Ages 5—14	(99.7%)
TOTAL (83.8%)			

REPORT
OF THE
SANITARY INSPECTOR

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Members
of the Chippenham Town Council.*

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present a Report of the work carried out in my department during the year 1948.

The tables and particulars conform to the Ministry of Health Regulations and requirements.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

S. F. FRENCH,
Sanitary Inspector.

Sanitary Inspection of District.

397 inspections of premises were carried out in connection with Housing and Nuisances, and 107 notices were served requiring the abatement of nuisances and housing repairs. No statutory notices were served. 12 notices had not been complied with at the end of the year.

Housing.

No Demolition Orders were made and no Clearance Areas declared during the year under review.

Two condemned houses were still occupied at the end of the year.

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948.

1. **INSPECTIONS** for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers Prosecuted (6)	
(1) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	35	9	2		1
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authorities	2	46	48	6		2
(3) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	3					3
Total		81	57	8		

91

2. Cases in which **Defects** were found.

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found			No. of cases in which prosecutions (7) were instituted	M/c. line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (6)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	2	2			
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	9	6	6			
(a) Insufficient						
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	12	2	2			
TOTAL	60	10	10	Nil	Nil	Nil
						60

Disinfection.

Disinfection was carried out in forty-nine homes after infectious diseases. Bedding and similar articles are treated by steam when this is considered necessary. No charge is made for fumigation or steam disinfection carried out for cases of infectious disease, but a charge is made when carried out by request where no infectious disease is notified.

Eradication of Vermin.

Very few cases of verminous infestations were dealt with during the year. The incidence of bug infestations has decreased during recent years. D.D.T. and Gammazene Insecticides were used and were highly successful in all cases.

Rodent Control.

The control methods recommended by the Ministry of Food are closely followed.

The sewers and brooks were successfully treated twice during the year. The refuse tip was also carefully watched and treated and has been reduced from a major infestation to spasmodic infestations of minor character. As reported last year very few complaints are now received of infestations.

Meat Inspection.

The Slaughterhouses in Chippenham are controlled by the Ministry of Food, and serve the areas of the Rural Districts of Calne and Chippenham, Devizes, and Malmesbury, and the Boroughs of Calne, Chippenham, Devizes and Malmesbury.

Cysticercus Bovis.

In November, Circular M.F. 5/48 was received from the Ministry of Food making known that cases of cysticercus bovis infestation of cattle had been reported from different parts of the country and asking that routine examination of all cattle slaughtered in the area should be instituted for the detection of this parasite, the cystic stage of Taenia Saginata, a tapeworm in man.

Up to the end of the year no case had been found, although several have been found since.

Carcases Inspected and Condemed.

	CATTLE	CALVES	SHEEP and LAMBS	PIGS
Number killed	3133	11301	5546	1456
Number Inspected	3133	11301	5546	1456
All diseases except Tuberculosis. Whole carcasses condemned	30	148	12	14
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	717	44	479	64
Per cent. of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	23.8%	1.6%	8.8%	5.3%
Tuberculosis only Whole carcasses condemned	54	3	0	9
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	642	2	0	199
Per cent. of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	22.2%	0	0	14.2%

Meat Condemned (Home killed) During 1948.

Bovines :					T.	C.	Q.	L.
84	Carcases	...	...	...	19	17	3	10
332	Heads	...	...	...	4	14	2	14
45	Forequarters	...	...	...	2	16	2	22
13	Hindquarters	...	...	...	0	18	0	14
548	Livers	...	...	...	3	4	1	16
476	Plucks	...	...	...	4	7	2	11
64	Melts	...	...	...	0	1	0	16
112	Skirts	...	...	...	0	2	0	0
	Meat	...	...	...	2	18	2	6
Pigs :								
23	Carcases	...	...	...	3	12	3	19
	Offal	...	...	...	2	7	0	17
	Meat	...	...	...	0	3	2	6
Sheep :								
12	Carcases	...	...	...	0	4	2	8
	Offal	...	...	...	0	7	3	24
	Meat	...	...	...	0	1	2	22
Calves :								
151	Carcases	...	...	...	2	12	2	4
	Offal	...	...	...	0	1	3	1
	Meat	...	...	...	0	1	0	2
Totals ...					<hr/> 48	<hr/> 14	<hr/> 0	<hr/> 16

In October, it became apparent that conditions at the Slaughterhouse at River Street, occupied by the Ministry of Food were worsening, and I presented the following report to the Council :—

“ I feel the attention of the Committee should be drawn to the present unsatisfactory conditions prevailing at the slaughterhouse in River Street occupied by the Ministry of Food.

You will remember that these premises were used as a slaughterhouse prior to the War in connection with a small butchery business.

The construction, layout and siting of the slaughterhouse is such that it is a practical impossibility to deal decently with the number of cattle now being sent there for slaughter. The result being that meat is being prepared under unhygienic conditions.

Recently the daily kill has been far in excess of what I consider should be the capacity of the premises. As many as 30 cattle are slaughtered on each of several days each week when 20 should be the daily maximum. One has to remember that the slaughtering apartment has also to be used as a cooling room, not only for carcasses, but also for the organs, heads and fats, as there is no other place where these could be stored.

The manure from the stomachs is allowed to accumulate under cover within a few feet of where the carcasses are dressed and cooled. The bi-weekly collection of manure persists in spite of a much larger kill and one has to experience it to know how offensive this material can become in a couple of days.

It follows that the small gut house is also overcrowded, of course, and this unpleasant process has to be carried on under difficulty.

The lairage accommodation is often over-crowded for about four days per week. As the pens are emptied, other cattle arrive to stand in several inches of slush ; there being no interval in which the pens can be cleansed.

The above are the main points of complaint, although one could still add remarks about the storage of hides, feet and inedible offal.

You will see too, I am sure, how difficult it is to provide an efficient inspection service.

I have made many complaints to the Ministry of Food Officials concerned, particularly daily to the local slaughterhouse manager, weekly to the County Slaughter-house agent, and I have discussed it with the Ministry's Technical Adviser. These officials have, in turn, presumably passed my complaints to the Area Meat Agent at Cardiff, but there is little improvement to date.

I have of course discussed these matters with the Medical Officer of Health, who has seen the conditions at the slaughterhouse, and he will no doubt give you his views.

I am of the opinion that the matter is urgent, and I hope the Council will make strong recommendations to the Ministries concerned.

The area covered by this centre for home killed supplies, comprises the Boroughs and Rural Districts of Calne, Chippenham, Devizes and Malmesbury. A population of approximately 75,000."

This report was forwarded by the Council to the Ministries of Health and Food and on November 12th, a deputation from the Ministry of Food inspected the conditions prevailing at the slaughterhouse and they waited upon the Council's representatives for a full and frank discussion of the subject. As a result the Ministry representatives gave an undertaking for a considerable reduction in the daily kill, i.e. to a maximum of 20 on any one day (14 at River Street and 6 at St. Mary's place), and for a daily removal of manure.

This undertaking has been implemented. Covered bins have been provided for the manure and this is removed daily : The figure given for the daily kill is not being exceeded : The facilities for the inspection service are much better : and there has been an all round improvement in the general cleanliness of the premises. As is mentioned in my report, the construction, layout and siting is very bad, and a long way behind modern practice. It is hoped that if it is the intention of the Ministry of Food to continue permanently the practice of centralised slaughtering a modern abattoir should be provided for the purpose, and the Council should press for this as soon as normal conditions prevail.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

The total number of licensed slaughtermen in the Borough on December 31st, 1948, was twelve.

Meat Transport.

On November 25th, I presented the following report to the Council in connection with this matter.

“ As a result of a suggestion by the Swindon Transport Company, I discussed the question of the transportation of meat in this area with the Managing Director and his Transport Foreman, on November 1st last.

The question of meat distribution in this area and our complaints with respect thereto were fully discussed, and I am pleased to report that the Company are most anxious to satisfy the Council by the carrying out of any reasonable suggestions involving work to their vehicles and instructions to their staff, as may be necessary, to remove any further cause of complaint.

The following is an outline of the matters they will remedy forthwith :—

- (1) Further attention of the drivers to be drawn to their regulations with regard to the closing of rear doors of the lorries when carrying meat, and a reminder that drivers are subject to instant dismissal for failing to carry out this instruction. In the meantime the company will have hooks and eyes fitted to the rear doors to meet the drivers' objections, i.e. swinging doors when unloading.
- (2) Floors and walls of lorries to be lined with sheet zinc to facilitate the cleansing and obviate the painting of the interior of the lorries. To date one lorry has been completed ; another is now in the Workshops for overhaul and to be lined, whilst the third will go in for the purpose immediately the second one is finished.

- (3) As an experiment "S" hooks are to be ordered immediately for the hanging of Forequarters. This is subject to the agreement of the local Wholesale Meat Supply Association, as it is thought carrying capacity will be reduced by one third. It is possible that labour difficulties may arise as a result of this suggestion. In the meantime clean hessian is to be provided on which to stack the Forequarters.

I am of the opinion that when these matters are dealt with, a distinct improvement will be seen in the carrying of meat in the area.

On November, 11th, I interviewed the Manager of the Wholesale Meat Supply Association and discussed the above matters with him. He agrees on all points except with some reservation on the matter of the hanging of the Forequarters, and this, as I have pointed out, is a matter for experiment.

He has provided overalls, washable head coverings and oilskin capes for his two humpers and further overalls are to be ordered so that there can always be a second issue available for these men."

This resulted in an improvement in the condition of the vans distributing meat in the area. The vans have been lined with impervious material thereby facilitating the easy cleansing of the walls and floors. Bins have been provided for the carrying of organs and offals. and there has been a general improvement in the handling and transport of meat in the area.

Transport of meat is a problem which requires constant watching and further improvisation may be necessary from time to time as difficulties arise.

Miscellaneous Goods Condemned During 1948.

Meat :

414 tins (1722 lbs.) of Corned Beef
337 tins of other Meats
305 lbs. Imported Beef
11 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. Smoked bacon
40 lbs. Imported Calf Kidneys
20 lbs. Imported Pig Livers
44 lbs. Chitterlings
120 lbs. Imported Rabbits
47 Meat Rolls
2 (59 lbs.) Carcases Canterbury Lamb

Veg. :

89 Tins Veg.
483 Bots. Rhubarb

Milk :

281 tins Milk
30 lbs. Malted Milk Powders

Fruit :

350 tins Fruit
97 lbs. Dried Peaches
30 lbs. Dried Prunes

Fats :

10 lbs. Sweepst
20 boxes Cheese
182 tins Cheese

Fish :

15 tins Fish
41 lbs. Plaice
3 Stone Dried Haddock

Cereals :

3 cwts Cereals
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cwts. Soya Flour
1 Bag Oatmeal

Misc. Goods :

73 Bots. Vinegar
9 doz. pkts. Pudding Mix.
50 pkts. egg sub. powders
11 pkts. pastry mix.
14 lbs. Sweets
1 pkt. Dried Egg
1 jar Ginger
1 tin Plum Pudding
3 tins Lemon Butter
150 pkts. Macaroni

Shops Inspection.

60 inspections were made of premises retailing foodstuffs. Eight informal and one Statutory notices were served regarding insufficient sanitary accommodation, cleanliness of premises etc.

Milk and Dairies Order.

Number of producers ...	...	...	...	4
Number of retailers with premises in the Borough ...	7			
Number of retailers with premises outside the Borough ...	...	...	...	11
Number of Accredited Dealers ...	...	...		0
Number of T.T. Dealers ...	...	...		4
Number of Pasteurisation Plants (Holder process)				1
Number of inspections made during the year for the purpose of the Milk and Dairies Order ...	...	...		80
Number of notices served ...	...	...		2
Number of samples—Designated Milks ...	...	...		69

The year 1949, is likely to see considerable changes in the law and practice relating to milk and dairies. The Food & Drugs (Milk & Dairies) Act, 1944, will probably come into operation in the autumn, transferring the supervision of milk production to the Ministry of Agriculture. In addition, there will be new regulations dealing with dairies and designated milk. Local authorities will probably still retain their responsibilities in regard to milk distribution.

Designated Milks.

Frequent samples of designated milks on sale in the Borough are taken in order to ensure that the conditions of the licenses are complied with. During 1948, 69 samples were taken and submitted to the Bristol Milk Laboratory of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, made up as follows :—

Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	33
Pasteurised Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	6
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	30

Thirteen samples failed to reach the prescribed standard i.e.

Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	1
Pasteurised Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	3
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	9

In each case where the failing sample was produced outside the area, the matter was taken up with the retailer and authority concerned. Similar action was taken in the one case concerning a wholesaler within the Borough, with good results.

Ice Cream.

Number of premises registered for the Manufacture and sale	...	...	...	...	8
<i>(four only manufactured during the year)</i>					
Number of premises registered for sale only	...	...	...	...	14
Inspection of premises	...	...	...	...	58
Number of samples	...	...	...	...	27

Twenty-two reached and passed the prescribed standard, i.e. Provisional Grade 1 (eighteen) and 2 (four).

Results considered to be very satisfactory. Of the five failures, three were imported from adjoining towns, and these results were notified to the authorities concerned. This sampling procedure, coupled with regular inspection of the premises provides a good indication of any defects in the preparation, transport, and distribution which call for further investigation. This investigation and advice has been welcomed in the trade.

The creation of chemical standards capable of legal enforcement is regarded as desirable, and now that supplies are more readily available, the Ministry of Food are collecting statistics for consideration by the Foods Standards Committee, presumably with this object in view. From the 7th November, 1948, additional supplies of sugar and fats have been made available by the Ministry to ice-cream manufacturers who have signed an undertaking that their ice-cream will have a minimum fat content of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

It is considered that the "registration provisions" of the Foods & Drugs Act, 1938, should be amended to secure that certain premises now exempt are included and that "prepacked" ice cream only shall be sold from stalls, vehicles etc.

